

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 260634

12

ORIGIN EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 TRSE-00 /058 R

DRAFTED BY EA/PHL:RTWILLNER:PAW

APPROVED BY EA/PHL:DCCUTHELL

----- 124119

R 261819Z NOV 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 260634

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, RP

SUBJECT: FOREIGN SECRETARY ROMULO'S SPEECH TO NATIONAL
PRESS CLUB

1. SECRETARY ROMULO SPOKE NOVEMBER 25 TO NATIONAL PRESS
CLUB LUNCHEON AUDIENCE WHICH INCLUDED ACTING SECRETARY
AND ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY HUMMEL.

2. SPEECH CONSISTED OF STRONG DEFENSE OF PRESIDENT MARCOS'
MARTIAL LAW GOVERNMENT, FOR WHICH ROMULO COINED PHRASE
"CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITARIANISM". HE ASSERTED THAT
DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS HAD BEEN DISCARDED BY THE PHILIP-
PINES "WITH REGRET AND RELUCTANCE" BUT THAT THIS ACTION
REPRESENTED "TIDES OF CHANGE" IN ASIA RESULTING FROM PRE-
OCCUPATION WITH ECONOMIC NEEDS, AND DESIRE FOR "FREEDOM
FROM WANT". HE OBSERVED THAT "GREATEST NATION OF ASIA"
UNDER COMMUNIST DICTATORSHIP HAD ACHIEVED GREAT SUCCESS IN
REACHING ITS ECONOMIC GOALS, AND NOTED MOVES AWAY FROM
DEMOCRATIC FORMS IN OTHER ASIAN NATIONS. HE FURTHER CITED
SOLZHENITSYN AS SOURCE FOR CLAIM THAT MULTI-PARTY PARLIA-
MENTARY SYSTEM IMPRACTICABLE FOR RUSSIA AND THAT IT "NEVER
NECESSARY". HE CONCLUDED THAT ONE SHOULD NOT SPEAK OF
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 260634

POLITICAL FREEDOM WHEN "THE IMPORTANT THING IS THE

STOMACH".

3. IN Q AND A SESSION FOLLOWING, FIRST INQUIRY WAS ON POLITICAL PRISONERS. ROMULO REPLIED THAT THERE ARE ONLY 153 PRISONERS WHO ARE POLITICIANS, THAT THEY ARE NOT "POLITICAL PRISONERS" BUT HAVE ALL BEEN CHARGED WITH CRIMES. THREE CAN NOT BE TRIED HE SAID BECAUSE ONE OF THEM CHALLENGES AUTHORITY OF MILITARY COURT. OTHER QUESTIONS ON DOMESTIC POLITICAL ISSUES RECEIVED SIMILARLY VIGOROUS RESPONSES. ANSWERING QUESTIONS ON DIPLOMATIC ISSUES ROMULO REAFFIRMED BALANCED APPROACH TO NORMALIZATION WITH PRC AND USSR; CONGRATULATED PRESIDENT FORD ON VLADIVOSTOK SUMMIT AND PRAISED SECRETARY KISSINGER AS "BEST SECRETARY OF STATE EVER"; DUCKED QUERIES ON MIDDLE EAST AND DIEGO GARCIA; AND COMMENTED MRS. MARCOS WAS THAT DAY SIGNING AGREEMENT WITH MEXICO ON SUPPLY OF OIL AND COPPER.

4. COMMENT: OCCASION NOT HEAVILY ATTENDED AND FRONT LINE PRESS DID NOT APPEAR STRONGLY REPRESENTED. THIS FACT AND ROMULO'S POPULARITY MAY HELP AVOID STRONG ADVERSE PLAY BUT SPEECH COMES AT A TIME WHEN UNFRIENDLY ATTENTION TO PHILIPPINE DOMESTIC POLITICS IS GROWING AND ROMULO PROVIDED NO REASSURANCE RE PROSPECTS FOR LIBERALIZATION. WE HAVE ALREADY HEARD CRITICAL COMMENTS FROM CORRESPONDENTS PRESENT. ROMULO'S FIGURE OF 150 POLITICAL PRISONERS RECENTLY USED BY MRS. MARCOS IN CONVERSATION WITH DEPARTMENT OFFICERS, AND WE ASSUME IT WILL REMAIN IN CIRCULATION. APPRECIATE COMMENT ON ITS BASIS AND VALIDITY.

INGERSOLL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, MARTIAL LAW, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE260634
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RTWILLNER:PAW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740343-1026
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741111/aaaaaape.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09-Aug-2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <19-Nov-2002 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FOREIGN SECRETARY ROMULO'S SPEECH TO NATIONAL PRESS CLUB
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, RP
To: MANILA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005